Secy. H-27—100,000—21-5-48.

Firka Development Department (195 49) Department

NS SERIES.

G.O. No. 187.

Dated 6-2-1949.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Madras Legislative Assembly - Starred Question by Sri S. Nagaraja Mudaliyagar ? M.L.A. - Copy of the scheme for the development of Firkas and Centres - Laid on the table of the House - Papers - Recorded.

345. Q. SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR: "Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Firka Development be pleased to state-

(a) whether there is a scheme for the development of the firkas; and if so, whether a copy of it will be laid on the table of this House; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to have a scheme prepared for the purpose at an early date?"

THE HON. Dr.S. GURUBATHAM:- "(a) Yes; a copy of it is laid on the table of the House".

"(b) The question of reorientating the present scheme has been taken up and it is now under consideration of Government".

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:- "Sir, the book that is placed on the table of the House only gives the general principles which are more or less recommendations of an expert committee. I wanted the concrete proposals that are before the Government or the regular plan that is before the Government according to which development is being carried on in the firkas so that hon. Members may know how much has been already carried out and what remains to be carried out and during which period the firka development will be completed?".

THE HON. DR..S. GURUBATHAM: - "Wil We are carrying out the development of the firkas according to the plan that is drawn up. I cannot say that we are carrying out all the plan in each firka. But depending upon each firka, we are carrying out some programme.

SRI V.M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:- "In the report it is said detailed plans will be based on overall plans. May I ask, Sir, whether any of these firkas have prepared the detailed plans keeping the general plan and overall plan in view, and if so, how many firkas have prepared the detailed plan and what are the concrete achievements in the respective firkas?".

THE HON. DR.S. GURUBATHAM: -"Each firka has got its own plan based upon the plan that has been drawn up. We have evolved two principles up to the end of the official year, 31st March 1949. We are trying to have all the wells dug so that people can get drinking water. As far as possible the road works will be completed. We have given directions to take up at least one village in each firka and complete the housing schemes there. This is not a plan that can be completed within three or four years. It will take ten years if we are to achieve the object of the plan".

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:- "Sir, the Government are aware that almost all the villages in our Province suffer for want of drinking water. What arraggements have the Government made to see that in these firkas drinking water-supply is assured to the people?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "That is just the answer I gave. By 31st March 1949, every village shall have a well; that is our programme".

SRI B.S. MURTHI:- "In order to give fillip to Firka development. Firka development Officers have been appointed in the beginning. After some time, these posts have been abolished. May I know whether the Government are considering the revival of these posts so that cottage industries in these firkas will receive greater attention"?.

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Firka development

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is a new policy of the Government. In that new policy, we have ventured out on many plans. From the experience gained we are adjusting the plans. In some places we have withdrawn, and in some we have advanced the schemes. With regard to cottage industries, our scheme is to train up 20 to 50 workers in pottery, carpentry, and blacksmithy. These people were given three months' training. But it was not practicable to give training within three months. We are withdrawing that plan. We are putting forward a different plan for them. That is we shall take up some of places where there are already cottage industries. They will be formed into a co-operative society. We will train four workers there giving them full scholarship for one year. This training will be given for three years. First year, there will be full scholarship in the second year there will be half-scholarship and in the third year they will be self-supporting. In that scheme we are trying to put into practice what we can do".

SRI P. NATESAN:- "May I know whether there is any provision for the supply of electricity to the cottage industries in the different firkas?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:-"We are not taking up the question of supplying electricity to cottage industries. But, wherever possible, we are trying to give electricity for pumping out water".

SRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN:- "May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied with the work that is being carried on in the firkas. If certain firkas are not working properly, will the Government consider the desirability of changing the scheme to some other firka?."

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "The Government are satisfied with the work of all the firkas.".

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:-"Are the Government thinking of training non-official workers in each one of the selected firkas, at least 50 workers, so that they may taken up the work when the Government give it up?".

THE HON. DR..S. GURUBATHAM:- "Experience has shown us that there are not very efficient workers in the firkas. Some of the workers appointed in these firkas have not satisfied the Government; some have left, and some we had to change. We had come to the position that training of the workers is the most important function of the firka development. We have opened a training school at Kalliupatti this month. Forty me workers are being trained. We are trying to open the Dandalur school on the 2nd October. We are emphasizing the training of these people. We are trying to carry on the policy in the villages. We have come to the conclusion that we cannot tackle all the villages in the firka. So, we have got five village development officers who are now called GRAMA SEVAKS. We have omitted the words 'village development officers', because some of the officers develop the idea of officers with peons running after them. These people have to select one village in each group and constantly try to make that village a completely changed one".

SRI N. GOPALASWAMI:- "Is it a fact, Sir, that many of these Firka Development Officers at present are not efficient in work, and if so, will the Government consider the question of replacing them?".

The Hon. Dr. S. Gurubatham:- "Ihave said that we are

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not satisfied with many of them. We are changing them and we are trying to train them. We intend calling all the Firka Development Officers as distinct from Village Development Officers for a conference, to discuss with them and to give them at least three weeks' training so that we may have a new policy".

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:- "In the overall plan I see no provision for the extension of compulsory education and adult education. May I know what definite plans the Government have for the spread of compulsory education in all these selected firkas of our Province?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "There is in the plan a place for adult education. We have not yet introduced compulsory education, because we do not have enough teachers for starting basic schools in these firkas. The policy of w firka development will be to start basic schools and in that we have not succeeded. We are trying to open basic schools wherever possible".

MRS. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:-"May I know whether the Director of Town-Planning has been consulted with regard to housing schemes that are to be adopted in all these firkas?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:-"No, Sir. We are not consulting the Director of Town-Planning, because his schemes are too grand for the villages. I have been trying for the last three months to evolve a scheme and meeting different types of people who are interested in rural housing. The latest proposal put up by the department was that we should take up six villages for rural housing at a cost of 15 lakhs of rupees. We have said that we cannot go on at that rate. In my tour of Tanjore district, I met two hundred Harijan families. We are evolving a scheme to construct a house at Rs.100/-. We will be drawing up the scheme in the course of a week. As I said at the beginning we are taking at least one village in each firka and we are trying to satisfy the housing scheme there. Plans will be prepared in the course of a week".

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:- "May I know what type of houses are going to be provided by the Government; are they going to be 'pakka(houses or mud houses?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "This question of 'pakka' houses or mud houses, I am not able to see clearly. Are not mud houses also pakka houses? I will explain it a little more fully. There is a proposal put up by the Development Department to construct houses in the Villages, with one room 12 feet by 10 feet and another 8 feet by 10 feet, with mud flooring, with no verandah, and with a thatched roof. This scheme costs Rs.1,000/-. At this rate, we cannot satisfy the demands of the villagers. So, I have been pressing hard for another proposal, and it is this. We will give a site in Tanjore district villages. We will give them 7½ to 10 cents each. They will be provided with a door and two windows. We will give them bamboos for their roof and tiles also. The other things must be met by the villagers themselves. i.e., walls and flooring. I know the question of cement flooring is not liked by the villagers. Cement is meant for people who are using cots. In our country the villagers do not use cots. They simply spread their cloth on the floor and lie down on them. The housewife does not like a cement floor. (Interruption) I am just explaining all this in order that we may understand the position. We are going to provide cement flooring but only mud flooring".

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know, Sir,

what approximately will be the time required by the Government to develop the firka to become self-sufficient?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "It all depends on the amount of co-operation that we get from the different departments of the Government, to co-operation from non-officials and villagers. It will take about two to ten years".

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know what happened to the spinning and weaving part of the Firka Development Scheme, and whether people are taking to it enthusiastically, and what progress has been made in that part of the scheme?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "It is one of my headaches, if I may use that term, I find this enthusiasm for khadi in the countryside is not so great as it used to be. I find that wherever I go. (Hear, hear'.) But still the Government are trying their level best to introduce it in the firkas. We have selected three firkas in Coimbatore district, where we are pushing on the scheme. The Government are putting all their energy to introduce khadi in all the Government departments and offices. There are a number of difficulties in the way, but we are struggling hard to put it through".

SRI P. NATESAN:- "May I know if the Hon.Minister thinks that a 12 feet by 10 feet room will be sufficient for a husband and wife, and a couple of children?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAN: - "M I have not said that I only said that such a programme was given to us. We have not approved that programme".

SRI B.S. MURTHI:- "May I know whether in giving house-~~wife~~ sites, the Government are taking care to see that no caste system is observed e.g. Harijans, non-Harijans, backward communities, forward Hindus, etc.? Are all given sites side by side?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "In all our directions, we have been telling that with regard to house-sites, the words, 'Harijan colony'should disappear from our firkas. We are omitting the words 'Harijan colony' in all our housing schemes, and we are trying to give house-sites to all people".

SRI V.M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:- "Am I to understand, Sir, from the answer given ~~th~~ by the Hon. Minister that each year an additional firka is to be taken for khadi, and if so, what time the Government expect to take to develop all the firkas in the various districts?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Ihave answered this question already. It will take 10 years to develop one firka, according to the Co-operation that is available. The Government are not taking any more firkas until the existing firkas are improved".

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:- "In view ~~11-15 a.m.~~ of the headache the Government seems to have in the matter of hand-spinning and hand-weaving, will the Government propose to make any radical change in the scheme so that people may take enthusiastically to something elese and the money of the tax-payer be saved?"

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "All these things are being considered and we are trying to work it properly and effectively".

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SRI M. BAPINEEDU:- "What new cottage industries have been introduced since the inauguration of the scheme?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "What is meant by new cottage industries, Sir?".

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:- "Those industries that were not in existence before the inauguration of the scheme".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "We have got here the list of industries and these will be introduced according to the number of workers working in the locality".

SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI:- "May I know whether the Government are satisfied with the work done in the firkas and whether they will consider the desirability of extending the scheme?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Until we have been able to make the firka developed completely, we do not like to extend".

SRI ROKKAM RAMAMURTHY:- "In the scheme, they promise to improve poultry in the country, Have the Government taken any steps in the direction"?.

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Poultry farming is one of the activities in any village development and we are paying attention to that also.

SRI S. NAGAPPA:- "Have the Government been able to get certain co-operation and co-ordination from all the departments like Agriculture, Industries, Education, etc.? If not, will the Government consider the desirability of bringing all these departmental heads together and bring them under one executive head?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "The matter has been closely considered and all the heads of the departments discussed the question and further steps will be taken to co-ordinate the departments in the firka".

SRI D.V. RAMASWAMY:- "May I ask, Sir, whether the Government in their Scheme for Firka Development have any objection to the introduction of electricity?".

Mr. SPEAKER. "One Hon- Member has already asked the question".

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:- "Will the Government consider the desirability of encouraging other producers of khaddar for some more time as the stuff produced in the firka is not enough to meet the needs of the people.

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "The Government will not consider individual cases but whenever there are large number of spinners and the All-India Spinners' Association has not taken up the work, we will organize co-operative societies to bring them together. We are trying to evolve a second policy to bring together large number of such spinners which will help them so that khaddar will be produced on a larger quantity than at present".

SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL:- "May I know if rice mills are allowed to work in the Firka Development area?".

THE HON' DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Rice mills are working

in the Firka Development area, though they were meant to be pnohibited. Before prohibiting, the Government is investigating alternative methods of husking paddy. The matter is still under investigation. I am visiting certain eentres for husking rice and until we have introduced the new methods, it will not be possible to bring in legislation to stop rice mills".

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SRI P. KANDASWAMY PILLAI:- "In view of the answer given by the Hon- Minister, namely, that the interest for khaddar is going down, may I know if the enthusiasm is wanting in the consumer or on the part of the producer, Sir?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Not the want of enthusiasm on the part of both; but the whole country is not very enthusiastic to-day. That is how I put it".

SRI G. KUMARASWAMY:- "May I know from the Hon. Minister for Firka Development whether Prohibition which forms part of Firka Development is working satisfactorily in all the development firkas where it was introduced already?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "Yes. Prohibition is a definite policy. We have introduced prohibition in all the firkas and they are working satisfactorily".

SRI K. VARADACHARI:- "May I ask the Hon. Minister for Firka Development whether he has been able to get at the Electricity department to see that power wherever available in the firkas is extended further in the firka?".

THE HON. DR. S. GURUBATHAM:- "We have already contacted the Electricity department and wherever I have visited the firkas, I have called for the Electricity department and if the people guarantee income of 8 per cent, the Firka Development is contributing 4½ per cent, so that the 12½ per cent required by the department is met".

MR. SPEAKER:- "I have allowed 23 minutes for this question. I will pass on to the next question. If any hon. Member wants to put any further question, he may put it in writing".

/True Copy/

Firka Development Department.

TO A.S.

Please see the printed official report of the proceeding relating to Starred Assembly Question No. 345, on pp. 1-6 c.f. (C) on p. 4 c.f. is for special note. No action appears called for on these proceedings. Development may see with reference to 'B' on p. 23 c.f.

Sd. x x x
27-11-48.

Development Department.

Notes of Firka Development on p. 3 above may be per used. The file has been sent to this Department with reference to 'B' on p. 25 c.f. of the proceeding of the Legislative Assembly. Only the scheme referred to at 'A' on p. 3 c.f. was dealt with in this Department. The Government have since asked the Registrar to draw up a revised rural housing scheme.

Firka Development Department - The other schemes referred to in the portion markes 'B' on p. 23 c.f. are not dealt with in this Department. Apparently they are dealt with in the Harijan Section in the Firka Development. With these remarks this may be returned to Firka Development Department.

Sd. x x x
8-12-48.

Firka Development Department.

TO A.S.

Development notes above may be perused. For orders whether the papers may now be recorded as G.O.Ms.

Sd. x x x
10-12-48.

'M' above: It is not clear which file is referred to by Development Department. But ~~these-~~ there is one file relating to starting of Harijans calonies in selected places in each District. ~~Please-~~ Plans and estimates of the houses under the scheme prepared by the Chief Engineer (General) has been received by Government. The file on the subject has been circulated to Hon'ble Minister (Rural Development) and Hon'ble Minister (Finance) on 4-12-48.

Sd. x x x
17-12-48.

G.O. MS. NO. 157, dated 16-2-49.

Madras Legislative Assembly -
Starred Question by Sri S. Nagaraja Maniyagar,
Members of the Legislative Assembly -
Copy of the scheme for the
development of firkas and centres -
Laid on the tables of the House -
Papers Recorded.

Sd. x x x
21-3-49.

/True Copy/

Superintendent,

ss/11-8.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

16/2/49